IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Meulenberg et al.

Serial No.: To be determined

Filed: December 23, 2003

For: INFECTIOUS CLONES OF RNA VIRUSES AND VACCINES AND DIAGNOSTIC ASSAYS DERIVED

THEREOF

Confirmation No.: To be determined

Examiner: U. Winkler, Ph.D. (presumed)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST TO PROVOKE INTERFERENCE WITH US PATENT 6,500,662

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before calculation of the filing fees, please cancel claims 1 through 20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.